



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

BUFFALO, CRAWFORD, JACKSON, JUNEAU, LA CROSSE, MONROE, TREMPLEAU, & VERNON

June 2004

May Local Unemployment Rates Announced

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced that 63 of Wisconsin's 72 counties had lower unemployment rates in May of 2004 than May of 2003, while 9 had higher unemployment rates this year than last year.

"For the third consecutive month, a majority of Wisconsin counties reported im-

watchful eye on the those counties that continue to struggle with unemployment in some pockets of the state."

The county with the greatest improvement from the prior year was Door County, which had an 8.5 percent unemployment rate last May, but a 5.7 percent rate this May. Sixty-six counties had a lower rate in May than they had experienced in April,

ployment rate was 12.7 percent in April and 7.7 percent in May. Vilas County went from 9.0 percent in April to 5.2 percent in May. Bayfield County went from 8.9 percent in April to 5.6 percent in May.

The lowest unemployment rate in the state was reported in Dane County at 2.5 percent. Ozaukee County with a 3.1 percent unemployment rate and La Crosse County with a 3.3 percent rate were not far behind. Thirteen counties in Wisconsin had unemployment rates lower than 4.0 percent. The highest unemployment rate in Wisconsin was reported for Menominee County at 10.9 percent. Oconto was next with an 8.3 percent rate, while Langlade County had a 7.9 percent rate.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: May 2004			
Civilian Labor Force	77,200	3,114.6	146,974
Employment	74,200	2,956.5	138,772
Unemployment	3,000	158.1	8,203
Unemployment rate	3.8%	5.1%	5.6%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	400	14.3	233
Employment	100	0.2	196
Unemployment	300	14.0	39
Unemployment rate	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	2,300	38.2	512
Employment	2,500	54.9	1,267
Unemployment	-200	-16.6	(754)
Unemployment rate	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.5%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota

proved unemployment rates in May, and for the fifth consecutive month most counties reported lower rates than one year ago," Secretary Gassman said. "These are important developments for the state's economy in the recovery process. We continue to watch these changes with a

while three counties had higher rates in May than they had in April, and three counties were unchanged. As usually occurs this time of the year in Wisconsin, the greatest month-to-month improvement was experienced in the northern tier of the state. Iron County's unem-

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

May 2004	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,500	10,010	12,370	10,810	65,280	22,580	15,450	14,880	158,890	93,620	3,098,840
Employed	7,220	9,490	11,940	9,980	63,120	21,650	14,820	14,280	152,490	89,380	2,951,450
Unemployed	280	520	430	840	2,160	930	630	610	6,400	4,240	147,390
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	5.2%	3.5%	7.8%	3.3%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	4.5%	4.8%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	5,300	7,500	8,700	9,000	70,400	19,300	12,900	8,600	141,700	71,300	2,833,800
Total Private	4,300	6,300	5,800	6,600	60,700	14,900	10,700	6,400	115,800	55,000	2,413,900
Goods Producing	400	1,800	2,000	2,300	11,900	3,900	5,200	1,100	28,700	16,800	639,400
Service Producing	4,800	5,600	6,800	6,700	58,500	15,400	7,700	7,500	113,000	54,500	2,194,400
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	180	240	1,100	280	2,600	520	250	270	5,500	2,800	131,000
Manufacturing	300	1,600	900	2,000	9,300	3,400	4,900	900	23,300	14,000	508,400
Trade	500	1,800	900	1,100	11,800	2,700	1,400	1,800	21,900	10,100	440,500
Transportation & Utilities	2,000	200	700	300	2,100	1,800	500	300	8,000	5,900	322,800
Financial Activities	160	180	230	240	3,400	570	490	360	5,600	2,200	159,400
Education and Health Services	500	1,000	700	1,200	13,300	1,600	1,200	1,600	21,000	7,700	375,400
Leisure & Hospitality	400	800	900	800	7,400	1,900	800	600	13,700	6,300	257,800
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	300	500	300	600	10,900	2,400	1,100	600	16,800	5,900	435,600
Total Government	920	1,160	2,980	2,390	9,630	4,420	2,210	2,240	25,900	16,300	419,900
Federal	140	80	60	280	540	2,100	140	120	3,450	2,910	29,300
State	20	210	440	730	2,610	240	30	40	4,320	1,710	100,300
Local	760	880	2,480	1,390	6,480	2,070	2,040	2,090	18,180	11,700	290,300
Change from one month ago	April 2004										
Civilian Labor Force**	-40	70	250	10	100	280	30	120	900	700	17,200
Employed	10	80	330	50	200	260	170	190	1,300	1,100	27,700
Unemployed	-50	-10	-90	-40	-100	20	-140	-60	-400	-400	-10,500
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.7	-0.1	-0.8	-0.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.9	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	100	100	300	90	600	340	220	150	1,900	1,300	36,600
Percent change NFWS from last moni	1.9%	1.4%	3.5%	1.0%	0.8%	1.8%	1.7%	1.8%	1.3%	1.9%	1.3%
Total Private	70	110	300	100	500	400	220	140	1,800	1,300	37,200
Goods Producing	10	50	200	0	300	100	60	40	700	500	10,500
Service Producing	80	50	100	100	300	300	170	110	1,100	900	26,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	10	20	210	10	200	40	30	30	600	400	6,100
Manufacturing	0	40	0	0	100	30	20	10	200	100	4,400
Trade	10	-10	0	0	0	30	30	40	100	100	5,800
Transportation & Utilities	20	0	20	10	0	30	30	10	100	100	4,000
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	900
Education and Health Services	0	10	10	0	-100	20	20	0	0	100	900
Leisure & Hospitality	20	40	40	100	500	190	90	40	1,000	500	15,600
Svcs	0	10	0	10	-200	20	-10	0	-200	0	2,400
Total Government	30	-10	10	-40	90	-20	10	20	100	0	-600
Federal	30	-10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	-200
State	10	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	0	-800
Local	-10	-10	10	-50	90	-20	10	10	0	-100	400
Change from one year ago	May 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	-100	170	200	150	1,700	940	730	450	4,200	2,500	38,600
Employed	-70	210	230	230	1,900	960	870	450	4,800	2,900	55,300
Unemployed	-30	-50	-30	-90	-200	-20	-130	-10	-600	-400	-16,700
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.4	-0.6	-0.3	-0.9	-0.5	-0.3	-1.1	-0.1	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	0	90	90	150	1,700	690	660	80	3,500	1,800	37,800
Percent change NFWS from last year	0.1%	1.3%	1.1%	1.7%	2.5%	3.7%	5.4%	1.0%	2.5%	2.5%	1.4%
Total Private	30	110	0	-100	1,500	700	600	200	3,100	1,600	42,300
Goods Producing	20	30	0	-100	400	0	400	0	700	300	3,000
Service Producing	-10	60	0	300	1,300	700	300	100	2,800	1,500	34,800
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	10	10	30	10	0	10	0	10	100	100	-800
Manufacturing	0	20	0	-100	400	-40	360	-10	600	200	3,800
Trade	0	20	0	0	100	130	40	110	300	200	11,600
Transportation & Utilities	10	10	0	20	-100	120	0	10	0	100	6,800
Financial Activities	0	0	10	0	100	0	50	0	200	100	2,400
Education and Health Services	-20	20	0	100	500	20	20	60	700	200	11,300
Leisure & Hospitality	30	50	100	0	200	120	60	20	500	300	5,700
Svcs	-10	-10	-100	0	400	330	60	-30	700	300	9,700
Total Government	-30	-20	50	200	180	0	70	-80	400	200	-4,500
Federal	-40	0	0	40	0	20	0	-10	0	0	-400
State	0	0	-20	160	0	0	0	0	100	100	-2,800
Local	10	-10	60	0	180	-20	70	-70	200	0	-1,300

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County

** Includes participants residing in area.

*** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates above are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. NFWS data benchmarked to 3/2003